

ASSUKKAR + APOYA, Costa Rica



SUCANAT® WHOLE CANE SUGAR FROM COSTA RICA

General Information

Since 1997, Pronatec has bought organic whole cane sugar from Costa Rica. Our local partner is Assukkar, a company owned and managed by the Ortuño family. Pronatec is the first and most important partner of Assukkar. In the region of Turrialba the climate is tropical and humid throughout the whole year, meaning the sugar cane can be harvested without interruption.

The harvest time depends on sugar content and maturity. The approximately 2 m high sugar is not burned as with conventional cultivation before the harvest, but cut by hand. The stalks are thereby separated directly above the ground and tops under the sugarless leaf system. The leaves remain as mulch on the field. They serve as protection against erosion and green manure. Pests are biologically controlled.

Products

SUCANAT® whole cane sugar

SUCANAT® of Assukkar is characterised by a unique high quality. On the one hand, the dry and free-flowing product is very suitable for industrial application. On the other hand, the typical characteristics of raw cane sugar are retained: the healthy minerals, trace elements and vitamins, the good taste of sugar cane and the pleasant colour.

In particular, SUCANAT® is perfect for the production of chocolate and whole foods.



CERTIFICATES

EU Bio, NOP, FLO Fairtrade ID 29916
(producer & exporter)

APOYA: FLO ID 30471 (cane sugar producer)





Our Commitment

Since last year ASSUKKAR is able to offer Fairtrade sugar again. With the support of PRONATEC it was possible to establish the Asociación de Productores y Orgánicos Agro-sostenibles (APOYA) in May 2013. This organisation is a group of small farmers from the region. PRONATEC has financed an initial capital. With this money sugar cane fields were created, an external consultant as been engaged, as well as the FLO and organic certification has been financed. With only 38 members the organisation APOYA is still small, but there is potential of growth in the region. 7 members work in the herb cultivation, 21 in coffee plantation and 5 in cultivation of sugar cane. 13 hectares sugar cane fields (total 35ha) have already been planted with certified organic sugar cane.

By working closely with the cooperative PRONATEC has first-hand information that will be passed on to our customers. The long-term good relationship with ASSUKKAR has provided a solid foundation of trust and guarantees continuity.

Since 2014, PRONATEC has transferred USD 50'000 Fairtrade premiums to APOYA



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